

Notice of Public Scoping

Grazing Permit Renewals and Land Health Assessments

Comment Period: Open until October 31, 2005

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The Grand Junction Field Office (FO) is soliciting public comments on the following two topics: First, we would like assistance in prioritizing watersheds for the assessment of public land health standards for Colorado. Secondly, we intend to renew 12 grazing permit/leases in 2006. We need to determine the level of public interest, concern, and resource conditions on each of the allotments up for assessment and renewal.

The assessment of public land health will be done on a watershed basis. During FY 2006 the Grand Junction FO will be continuing land health assessment in the Roan Creek drainage area.

Once the FO receives the public comments, the staff will meet as an interdisciplinary team. Using the public comments and all other available information provided, the FO Inter-Disciplinary Team will establish the priority list of the land areas that will be assessed for compliance with the health standards during the 2006 field season.

Following are the watershed and acreage identified in the FO that we are soliciting input regarding when the assessment will be initiated.

Name	Federal Acreage
Roan Creek drainage	68,956

The FO will be also be completing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis and making decisions on the renewal of certain grazing permit/leases. Since the level of NEPA analysis is in part driven by the level of public interest and concern, your comments are requested relative to conditions you have observed on these allotments, and/or specific environmental concerns about the lands and/or resources found within the specific allotment. The more specific and factual your information is, the more helpful and useful it will be.

An interdisciplinary team will rank the expiring permits into high and low priority categories based on public comments and all other information available. The ranking will help determine the amount of consideration necessary and the appropriate level of NEPA documentation for reaching a decision on each grazing permit renewal. The ranking will also help to allocate resources to address concerns on a priority basis.

The following BLM grazing permits/leases are scheduled for renewal in FY2006 on the following BLM grazing allotments in the Grand Junction FO:

Allotment Name & Number	Federal Acres	Permittee/Lessee	Land Area
Upper Brush Mtn (06748)	741	William Barnard	Douglas Pass
Brush Mtn Common (06705)	1,868		
Coon Hollow Common (06712)	19,216	Donna Koehler	DeBeque
Conn Mtn Common (06711)	168		
Logan End Common (06732)	1,670		
Logan Wash (06734)	1,605		
Palisade Flats (16401)	1,946	Randy Castle	Gateway
Berg's North Mesa (06424)	1,704	Leon Moores	Unaweep Canyon
4-A Ind (06756)	192	Todd Brackett	DeBeque
Henderson Ridge Comm (06723)	1,154	Chris Bedell	DeBeque
Brush Mtn Common (06705)	1,868		
Eby Gulch (06717)	1,550		
4-A Place (06755)	90		

South of the Road (16105)	1,322	Anne Roehm Lawson	Gladepark
East Tom's Cyn Comm (16106)	3,680		Rabbit Valley
Maluy (16610)	2,144		
Landini (16120)	2,192		
North Creek (06416)	1,214	Jack Casto	Unaweep Canyon
Snyder Flats (16129)	3,007	Dahl Aubert	Gladepark
Heely (16837)	2,324	Martin Woodring Jr.	Colbran
Jerry Gulch (06847)	1,473	James Fosburgh	Colbran
Red Mountain (16813)	430	My Way Ranch	Colbran

If you have any information or concerns, wish to be considered as an interested party on a permit or allotment, or wish to be involved in a health of the land assessment, please contact the individual at the address above to be put on a mailing list. If you do not have specific comments at this time but have questions about the land areas or allotments listed in this notice, contact the individual at the address above.